Patents of Yoga by America

†1898. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRANARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether America has obtained or going to obtain patent of Yoga or some parts of it; and

(b) the reaction of Government thereto and the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The US Patent and Trade Office (USPTO) have not granted any patent on Yoga till date. The USPTO have granted 168 patents to date on devices and equipment that may be used in conjunction with Yoga.

(b) As no patents have been granted on Yoga, the matter has not been taken up with the US authorities.

PIOs in South Africa

†1899. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that people of Indian origin have become victims of more than several thousand criminal cases in South Africa in 2006-07;

(b) whether a detailed investigation has been carried out in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the African people are not behind all this;

(d) if so, the details of the persons involved in all this; and

(e) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Newspaper reports in South Africa based on a study conducted by a private firm indicated that Indians were the minority group bearing the brunt of criminal activities. The report is based on perceptions and not on official statistics or facts or figures on actual crime committed against specific race groups in South Africa.

(b) to (d) No Sir. In general all communities in South Africa appear to be affected by crime which is opportunistic in nature and not necessarily based on racial targeting.

(e) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.